Nippon Times

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Upper House Holds First Open Session Of Budgetary Body

First Time in History of Japan Public Allowed to See Peers at Work

The Budget Committee meeting of the House of Peers was opened to the public for the first time in the history of the parliamentary system of Japan Thursday morning.

After explanation of the supplementary budget bills for the present fiscal year by Finance Minister Shibusawa upon the opening of the session at 10:40 a.m. Thursday, Kishichiro Oka, Koyu Club, questioned on the food situation and Prime Minister Shidehara replied that the Government recognizes the serious situation and that the Government policy is based upon the principle of first satisfying the demand for clothing, food and dwelling. Oka also questioned on the present congestion on transportation lines, and the the Transportation, Minister replied that the condition was due to the results of the air raids, as 890 locomotives, 2,200 passenger cars and 500 electric cars were damaged.

Respecting the education system, Education Minister Mayeda said that the fundamental future policy in regard to education was clarified in the instruction given to the principles of normals school at their recent meeting.

The Budget Committee session adjourned at 11:50 a.m. for the noon recess.

The House of Peers met in plenary session at 10:07 a.m. Thursday and approved the Government bills for repeal of the wartime Casualty Insurance Law and the Wartime Special Damage Insurance Law as reported by the Chairman of the committee in charge of the bills. Then the bill proposed by the Lower House for revision of the Criminal Procedure Law was brought up and referred to a committee. The House adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

The plenary session of the House of Representatives was held at 1:50 p.m. Thursday when a resolution urging quick rehabilitation of damage caused by air raids was moved with explanation for its presentation given by Giju Manabe, Progressive. Mitsu Kono, Social Democrat, made a speech seconding the resolution and the House approved it unanimously. Ichizo Kobayashi, President of the War Damage Rehabilitation Board, promised his best efforts to meet the wishes manifested by the House.

Then, Government bills providing for repeal of the National Mobilization Law and Wartime Casualty Insurance Law with explanatory remarked given by Wataru Narahashi, Director of the Board of Legislation were referred to the committee in charge of the Draftees' Vocational Compensation Law.

AMERICA TO ACT FOR P.I.

Will Claim Reparations for Filipinos, McNutt Says

Kyodo-AP

MANILA, December 11.—The United States will claim reparations from Japan on behalf of the Philippines, High Commissioner Paul V. McNutt said today.

He said that the entire reparation program must be approved by President Truman and the nations constituting the Far Eastern Advisory Commission and "possibly some others."

Amabassador Edwin Pauley, President Truman's reparations representative, will leave for the United States tonight. Other members of the reparation group will return to Japan.

Pauley emphasized that the American reparations plan contemplated leaving Japan "those things essential for a minimum peacetime economy."

DIET TODAY

The House of Peers will sit in a plenary session at 1 p.m. The House committees studying budgets, Election Law amendment and Criminal Procedure Law will start their discussions at 10 a.m. The House of Representatives will also meet in its plenary session at 1 p.m. when bills on the agrarian reform and the Labor Union Law are expected to be submitted for the House approval provided the committees studying these bills finish their work in the morning. Lower House committees studying bills on agrarian reform, Labor Union Law, Salt Monopoly Law, Agricultural Organizations Law, repeal of the Draftees' Vocational Compensation Law and the Imperial Ordinance issued in relation to the Potsdam Declaration will meet respectively at 10 a.m.

How Japan Was Saved From Brink of Destruction

Imperial Will for Peace Over-Rode Opposition By Military at Epochal Imperial Councils Held Last August

That it was the present Emperor of Japan who laid down the final and momentous decision, in the face of stiff military opposition, to surrender the nation to the Allied Powers is revealed for the first time in detailed form by the magazine "Yoron" (Public Opinion) in its latest issue.

Speaking "cogantly, confidently and unemotionally" as former Prime Minister Suzuki later disclosed, the Emperor also declared that His Majesty would address the people of the nation over the radio, a step unprecedented in the history of the country, the magazine said.

The decision by the Emperor made in the Imperial Palace during the historic Imperial Councils was so touching and unexpected, that the late War Minister Anami "prostrated himself at the foot of His Majesty, weeping bitterly," while other members wept silently.

"Is the Emperor a God? No, the Emperor is a human being," the introductory remarks by the magazine article declared, adding that "His Majesty's human aspects, as displayed in the course of the Imperial Councils, are what the people are most anxious to know."

Excerpts from the article giving a detailed account of the Imperial Councils, as reported by Jiji follow:

The first Imperial Council was held late on the night of August 9, 1945. It took place in the underground chamber within the Imperial Palace.

Those who attended the Imperial Council included Admiral Baron Kantaro Suzuki, then Premier, and fifteen Cabinet Ministers, General Yoshijiro Umezu, Chief of the Army General Staff, Admiral Soemu Toyoda, Chief of the Navy General Staff, Baron Dr. Kiichiro Hiranuma, President of the Privy Council, Chiefs of three Cabinet Bureaus and directors of the Military and the Naval Affairs Bureaus of the War Office and the Navy Ministry, respectively.

Complete silence prevailed when the Council got under way. The participants took their seats in a semi-circle, with the Emperor in the center. Premier Suzuki and other Ministers were on the left side of the Emperor, while those from the Supreme Command sat on the right side. The five aides, including the two Bureau Directors of the War Office and the Navy Ministry, respectively, and the Chiefs of the three Cabinet Bureaus took their seats at the end of the Cabinet Ministers' row facing His Majesty.

By the time this historic Imperial Council was held, the majority of high-ranking government officials had been inclined to accept the Potsdam Declaration, as a whole, as the result of the Russian entry into the war and the United States' atomic bomb attack on Japan.

All of the Army and part of the Naval High Command, however, were opposed to this. In the course of Cabinet meetings held up to the Imperial Council on August 9, there had been two schools of opinion

(Continued on Page 2)

More War Suspects Enter Sugamo Gaol

Newcomers on Thursday Include Furuno, Aoki, Amau, Hata, Goto, Others

Following the imprisonment Wednesday morning of Royal Prince Field Marshal Morimasa Nashimoto, 28 other Japanese accused as war criminals entered Sugamo prison Thursday.

1. Inosuke Furuno, president of the defunct Domei Tsushin Sha.
2. Eiji Amau, president of the Bureau of Information under Premier Tojo.
3. Kazuo Aoki, former financial advisor to the Nanking Government.
4. Fumio Goto, vice president of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association.
5. Shunroku Hata, Japanese Army Field Marshal who held such posts as Commander in Chief of the Japanese Expeditionary Forces in China, and Minister of War.
6. Naoki Hoshino, formely Chief Cabinet Secretary of the Tojo Cabinet.
7. Iwakusu Ida, former director of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association.
8. Shozo Kawabe, former Commander in Chief in Burma and Commander in Chief of the Central Army.
9. Takeo Kikuchi, retired lieutenant general.
10. Eiichi Kinoshita, major general who was commanding general of the Eastern District Military Police Unit.
11. Junichiro Kobayashi, retired colonel, former director of the Imperial Rule Assisance Association.
12. Seizo Kobayashi, retired admiral.
13. Hiromasa Matsuzaka, former Minister of Justice
14. Shumei Okawa, former professor of oriental philosophy at Tokyo Imperial University.
15. Kozo Ota, former Minister of Education.
16. Masataka, Ota, director of the policy bureau of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association.
17. Nobutaka Shiloden, retired lieutenant general.
18. Matsutaro Shoriki, former president of the Yomiuri Shimbun.
19. Sankichi Takahashi, retired admiral.
20. Soemu Toyoda, Admiral, former commander in chief of the Combined Fleet and more recently of the Navy General Staff in 1945.
21. Shingo Tsuda, former financial adviser to the Finance Ministry.
22. Kiyoshi Goko former director of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association.
23. Count Yoriyasu Arima, president of the Imperial Marine Products Company.
24. Toshizo Nishio, retired general, former governor of Tokyo.
25. Otogoro Ishida, Major General, commanding general of military police.
26. Tsugio Nagamoto, Major General, commanding general of Central District of the Military Police.
27. Koichi Ono Major General, commander 11th Division.
28. Moto Takaji, Major General, commanding general Korean gendarmerie.

21 Still Out of Custody

TOKYO (AP)—December 13.—Twenty-one of the 59 Japanese leaders ordered to report to Sugamo prison by yesterday to await trial as war criminals were still outside the walls today because of illness or still out of the country.

The Japanese Foreign Office section conducting the surrender arrangements listed four groups as follows:

Thirty-eight apprehended; nine expected to be ill for a long period; five expected to surrender in a few days after a short illness and seven abroad.

The list follows:

Long illness—Ginjiro Fujihara, industrialist, long ill; Baron Kiichiro Hiranuma, former Premier, wound suffered in assassination attempt during the war; Koki Hirota, foreign service, heart ailment; Kumataro Honda, Ambassador to Nanking, amoebic ailment; Rentaro Mizuno, aged over 80; Chikuhei Nakajima, industrialist, medical certificate; Hyogoro Sakurai, former Minister, pneumonia; Suehiko Shiono, former Justice Minister, tuberculosis, Iichiro Tokutomi, journalist, head ailment.

Short illness—Yui Yokoyama, propagandist; Yoshisuke Aikawa, industrialist; Yoshio Kodama, politician; Hiroshi Shimomura, various government posts; Hayao Tada, Lieutenant General.

Abroad—Masayuki Tani, foreign diplomat, now in China; Jun Ushiroku, General, Manchuria; Kenryo Sato, Greater East Asia Ministry, believed in Indo-China; Toshio Nomia, Major General for Formosa Kempei, China; Aketo Nakamura, Lieutenant General commanding Thailand believed in Burma; Masashichi Kamisago, Major General commanding Formosa military police, now China; Hikosaburo Hata, Lieutenant General, Chief of Staff Kwanung army, now Manchuria.

General Elections Set For Jan. 20 If Diet Ends Session by December 19

The Government has decided to hold the forthcoming general elections on January 20, 1946, in case the present Diet session is prolonged for another five days, as planned by the Cabinet, Jiji reports. According to the Cabinet's plan, the Government will dissolve the Diet on December 19, and, following a 31-day period of electioneering, will hold the general elections on January 20, which falls on Sunday.

STEEL STRIKE DATE IS SET

Largest Walk-Out in U.S. History To Begin January 15

Kyodo-AP

PITTSBURGH, December 12.—The CIO United Steel Workers Union claiming membership of nearly 1,000,000, yesterday, set the minute after midnight of next January 14 as the time for the beginning of a general strike of steel mills in the country.

A resolution by the wage policy committee condemned President Truman's proposed legislation for the settlement of the dispute by the fact finding board.

The strike will be the largest in the history of American industry.

The Union is demanding a $2 daily wage increase. However, large steel firms have stated that they cannot pay a raise without increasing prices. They said the Government's Office of Price and Administration has refused general price increases.

Penalty Ruling Refused

Kyodo-AP

WASHINGTON, December 11.—The House today refused to consider the legislation penalizing labor unions striking in violation of contract agreements.

The action was a major victory for the foes of stringent labor legislation.

5-Day Prolongation Likely for 89th Diet

Government Dissatisfied With Lower House Change of Election Bill

The Government plans to prolong the present Diet session, which is originally scheduled to close today, for another five days in an effort to ensure the enactment of three major bills—farm land reform, labor union and revision of the Election Law—by both Houses of the Diet, according to Jiji.

It is believed, in this connection, that the Government bill for revision of the Election Law, passed by the House of Representatives last Tuesday with amendments, is most likely to be headed for a joint conference between the Upper and Lower Houses, when it reaches the House of Peers.

Well-informed sources said that the Government is dissatisfied with the Election Law revision bill in its present form as amended by the Lower House. According to these sources, therefore, the Cabinet will make last-minute efforts to have the bill restored to its original form as drafted by the Government, when the Upper House starts deliberations on the bill.

Present indications are that the House of Peers will probably support the Government's stand on the bill and will again amend the Lower-House-passed bill to restore it to the original Government draft, these sources said. In that case, they added, it would be necessary for the Diet to hold a two-House conference to talk their difference of views over.

In view of this likelihood, it is said, the Government intends to prolong the present Diet session at least for another five days in order to give enough time for full discussions by both Houses on the point.

These sources further said that in case of a five-day prolongation of the session, it will probably be possible for the Diet to complete their deliberations on both the farm land reform bill and the labor union bill.

According to present indications, the same sources added, the Government is hopeful that the projected five-day prolongation of the Diet session would make it possible to have all of the three major bills enacted into law during the current session.

Patton's Condition Grave

Kyodo-AP

HEIDELBERG, December 12.—General George Patton spent a "good night," but his condition "remains grave," an official bulletin said today. Nurses attendng the general suffering with a groken neck said he "is one of our best patients" and is accepting his paralyzed condition like "a true soldier."

War Suspects Nabbed in F.I.C.

Kyodo-AP

SAIGON, December 11.—The questioning of former prisoners of the Japanese has resulted in the compilation of 2,000 war crimes charges against Japanese in Southern Indo-China. Of the total some 150 have already been arrested and 20 have been accused as major war criminals.

Hakimi May Go To Moscow

Kyodo-AP

TEHERAN, December 12—Iranian Premier Ibrahim Hakimi today announced that he intended to visit Moscow for consultations regarding Azerbaijan. Diplomatic sources reported that Azerbaijan is recruiting troops to augment the present 4,000 armed men.

Hostilities Begin As British Ignore Indonesian Threat

More Troops Landed Despite Warning—English Take Over Rail Depots

Kyodo-AP

BATAVIA, December 12.—Fighting flared at several points in central and western Java today as the British authorities brought fresh reinforcements into the strife-torn island despite the Indonesian threat that such action would be answered with a general uprising.

The British took over all main railway stations in Tandjong, Prick and Batavia to facilitate the local movement of supplies.

British, Dutch Confer

Kyodo-AP

BATAVIA, December 12.—Lieutenant General Sir Miles Dempsey, Southeast Asia Field Commander, conferred with British and Dutch officials in Batavia following the threat of mass uprisings by the Indonesian Nationalist headquarters. This followed the warning by Sultan Sjahrir, Indonesian leader of resistance, if further attacks by British and other forces are made in Java. Meanwhile, tension increased throughout the embattled island.

Sjahrir Makes Suggestions

Premier Sutan Sjahrir of the unrecognized Indonesian republic, addressed a press conference on Tuesday and made certain suggestions for solving the problem that faces Java, according to a New Delhi broadcast.

He said that recognition of his administration was the best way for a peaceable and clear settlement of outstanding problems. He maintained that once this has been accomplished the Indonesians were willing to undertake to see that the Allied internees are protected and that the Japanese are disarmed and turned over to the Allies.

Dr. Sjahrir made it clear that the Indonesian Administration would restore normal order in Java. He made it clear that there could be no peaceful discussions if blood were made to flow in Indonesia.

He said that if large military action was started in Java, Indonesians would resist it.

Demands Investigation

Kyodo-AP

WASHINGTON, December 11.—Representative Patterson, Democrat of California, today charged in the House that "our Navy Department helped arm, train and equip the troops fighting against the Indonesian peoples in the Netherlands East Indies." He asked an investigation to determine the individuals responsible.

ARABS SPURN BRITISH PLAN

Palestine Council Rejects Move for Settlement

Kyodo-USIS

JERUSALEM, December 12.—The Supreme Palestine Council issued an announcement rejecting the British plan for the settlement of the Holy Land controversy by the joint Anglo-American inquiry commission.

Says U.S. Has No Right

Kyodo-AP

CAIRO, December 12.—The committee representing all Arab parties in Palestine declared that the United States has no right to interfere in Palestine and charged that America had shown "partiality in support of Jews in their demand for a national homeland."

Holding Preliminary Talks

The United States and British delegations on Palestine are to hold preliminary discussions among themselves, according to a New Delhi broadcast. They meet in their respective capitals Thursday. The work of the committee itself is expected to begin soon.

Thursday's discussions will be followed by meetings in London, first between the chairman of the two delegations and then of the whole committee. It is thought that the joint committee will be divided into sub-committees to visit various areas laid down for examination.

Trieste Separate Zone

Kyodo-AP

LONDON, December 12.—A Milan radio broadcast reported that the Allied military government has decided to make Trieste a separate administrative zone.

Rail Traffic Resumed

Railway traffic between France and Spain was resumed on Sunday according to a Melbourne broadcast which said that a ceremony was held at the border of the two countrie to mark the event.

Soviet Promise to Clear Manchuria of China Reds Greeted With Skepticism

Kyodo-AP

CHUNGKING, December 12.—The Chinese Central Daily News reported from Peiping today that the Russians have agreed to assume responsibility for clearing non-national troops out of Manchuria, but the report was received here with some skepticism. If true, it would entail a virtual Russian campaign against the Chinese Communists.

Big-3 Foreign Heads To Meet in America

New Talks Due in March; Truman Says Don't Expect Too Much From Parley

President Truman announced Wednesday at a press conference that the Big Three foreign ministers are to have yet another meeting in Washington next March, according to a BBC broadcast.

Is Routine Affair

Kyodo-AP

WASHINGTON, December 12—President Truman said today that the Moscow conference which Secretary of State Byrnes will attend is rather a routine affair planned long ago.

Truman emphasized that too much should not be expected to result from the conference in way of specific agreements.

Byrnes Leaves for Moscow

Kyodo-AP

WASHINGTON, December 12.—Secretary of States James F. Byrnes left today by plane for Moscow where he plans to tackle half a dozen critical issues on which Big Three cooperation has been stalled.

Among these issues are atomic energy and the eventual European peace conference.

Byrnes Makes Announcement

U. S. Secretary of State Byrnes announced Tuesday that during the foreign ministers' conference at Moscow, he will inform the Russian Government of the proposals made at the Washington talks between Presisent Truman and Prime Ministers Attlee and McKenzie King for the control of atomic power, according to a New Delhi broadcast.

Byrnes said he would seek Russian cooperation in the creation of a United Nations commission to control atomic energy. The foreign ministers will not explore the scientific details.

Another proposal that Byrnes will make at Moscow is that a peace conference should be called as soon as possible.

Byrnes also announced that Britain had refused to withdraw her troops from Iran by January 1 because the Soviet Union found it impossible to withdraw her forces by that date. The United States had proposed that all Allied troops should be out of Iran by that date instead of March next year.

The British Government, according to Byrnes, hoped that a suggestion be made to Russia that an early discussion should be held on plans for removing Allied forces from Persia.

Bevin Leaving For Talks

With the House of Commons debate over, British Foreign Secretary Bevin is due to leave today by air for his Moscow talks with Soviet Foreign Commissar Molotov, and U.S. Secretary of State Byrnes.

Meanwhile, it is announced in Teheran that Sir William Bullard, British Ambassador to Iran, is leaving for Moscow to be present at the meeting of the Big Three foreign ministers, according to a BBC broadcast.

Gen. Rawson Sentenced

Kyodo-AP

BUENOS AIRES, December 11.—The Supreme Council of War and Navy Ministers sentenced today General Arturo Rawson to six months imprisonment and ousted him from the Army for leading the unsuccessful revolt at Gordoba garrison last September. Rawson in 1943 overthrew the Castillo government and became the Argentine president for two years.

Edgar Snow Reaches Japan

Edgar Snow, noted American critic and authority on Chinese Communism, has come to Japan after having completed an inspection tour of the Philippines, reports Kyodo. He is expected to hold talks with leaders of the Japanese Communist Party within a few days, it is further revealed. Snow is the author of "Red Star over China" which gives an account of his visit to Yennan, headquarters of Chinese Communists.

Nationalists Occupy Mukden, Changchun Unopposed by Reds

Pitched Battles Rage Along Great Wall However; Communists Mass Troops

Kyodo-AP

TIENTSIN, December 12.—Chinese Nationalist troops under General Tu Li-ming have effected a bloodless entry into Mukden while the air-borne Fifth Division of the 94th Army has arrived at the Changchun airfield, according to information reaching here today.

The occupation by the Government forces of these two keypoints in central Manchuria under the agreement with the Soviet authorities was carried out without friction with the Communist troops.

Pitched Battle Waged

Kyodo-AP

CHUNGKING, December 12.—Pitched battles are going on between the Nationalist and Communist forces at Kupeikow, Kuyungkwan and Hsifengkow, keypoints on the Great Wall, according to today's issue of the China Times, a local English-language journal.

Reds Mass Along Wall

Kyodo-AP

CHUNGKING, December 12.—Fighting along the Great Wall has intensified with the massing of the Communists to block the Nationalist drive toward Chahar, press dispatches from North China reported today.

A message from Nanking charged that the Communists had formed a "Kiangsu-Anhwei border government" on lines of the "border government" centering around Yenan.

In Chungking today, Minister of Information K.C. Wu confirmed press reports that Communist delegates to the scheduled peace parleys here would not arrive until about the middle of this month.

Meanwhile, various provincial guilds in Chungking issued an appeal to the government to take "strong and effective measures to cure the sinister activities of the Communists and remove all obstacles to national unity and reconstruction."

The guilds charged that the Communists were sabotaging communications, endangering the safety of the nation, obstructing the disarmament and repatriation of Japanese troops and causing great sufferings to the Chinese people.

Trouble in Transfer

Diplomatic quarters in Chungking find themselves faced with fresh problems as a result of what will amount to a division of administration between Chungking and Nanking although technically the seat of the government will remain in Chungking until next March or April.

One of these problems is how much personnel to send to Nanking. Another is housing. The third is heating and local transportation.

Most embassies in Chungking are already understaffed and the dispatch of any part of their personnel to Nanking will and appreciately to the burdens of those who remain here.

Some diplomats fear that time-consuming trips between Chingking and Nanking will be necessary for the high level contacts which will be necessary if top-ranking officials of the national government establish themselves at Nanking.

Kunming Commander Relieved

Kyodo-AP

CHUNGKING, December 11.—Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek today relieved Kwan Tain-cheng as commander of the Kunming garrison today for alleged mishandling of a strike or 6,000 students against the civil strife in China.

The order directed Kwan to be appropriately punished.

General Ho Kwei-chang was named acting garrison commander.

MARINES TO STAY IN CHINA

Until Surrender Terms With Japan Are Carried Out, Says Truman

Kyodo-AP

WASHINGTON, December 12.—President Truman today said the United States marines will remain in China until the surrender terms with the Japanese have been carried out.

Presumably, this means the marines will stay as long as any of the important forces of the defeated Japanese are left China.

Delayed by Transport Tieup

Kyodo-USIS

CHUNGKING, December 12.—Chinese press reports said that a transport tieup in northern China is delaying the routine of sending disarmed Japanese troops home. Recent figures released showed some 34,000 Japanese soldiers and about 7,000 had been repatriated.

Constitution Revision Slated for New Diet

Government Not Likely to Present Bill Till New Legislature Set

The controversial bill for revision of the Constitution will most probably be presented to the next Diet session scheduled for February 1, in the opinion of political observers.

These circles attach much importance to Premier Shidehara's remarks made at Wednesday's plenary session of the House of Peers in which the Premier ,in reply to Choku Obara, said: "The revision of the Law Governing the House of Peers should, in principle, precede the revision of the Constitution. However, the revision of the Constitution may be carried out first to be followed by the reform of the Upper House in accordance with changes in the political situation."

Observers interpreted the Premier's statement as indicating that the revision of the Constitution would take place at the special session of the Diet to be convened immediately after the coming general election which is to be held around January 15, next year.

The Premier's remarks further point out, in the opinion of the observers, the fact that the present situation in Japan requires early revision of the Constitution and that the Government has made considerable progress regarding this issue.

It has ,been generally believed this circles recall, that the Government will not ask the Diet to deliberate on the revision of the Constitution until the new Lower House is formed following the coming general election and the Upper House reformed by the next special Diet session.

How Japan Was Saved From Utter Destruction

(Continued from Page 1)

among the leaders of the Government and of the fighting services.

One school supported the proposal advanced by Foreign Minister Shigenori Togo, calling for Japan's acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration on condition that the Tenno system be retained. The other supported War Minister General Korechika Anami's proposal insisting, first, that the Tenno system be retained, second, that no enemy troops be allowed to enter the Japanese mainland, third, that no one should be called to account for responsibility for the war, and fourth, that the Japanese forces be withdrawn by Japan herself instead of being disarmed at the hands of the Allied Powers.

Those who supported Foreign Minister Togo's proposal included Premier Suzuki, Navy Minister Admiral Mitsumasa Yonai and twelve others, while the War Minister's proposal was supported by only two Cabinet Ministers—General Anami himself and Admiral Teijiro Toyoda, Minister of Munitions. There was one who remained neutral.

Within the Supreme Council for the Direction of War, General Umezu, Admiral Soemu Toyoda and General Anami supported the War Minister's proposal, while the Foreign Minister's stand was supported by Premier Suzuki, Navy Minister Yonai and Baron Hiranuma, President of the Privy Council. Such was the situation that had prevailed in the highest Government circles up to the first Imperial Council on August 9.

At this Imperial Council, His Majesty took the decision that Japan accept the Potsdam Declaration on condition that the Tenno system be retained.

Following his decision taken by His Majesty, the Government immediately communicated to the Allied Powers through the Swiss Government on the following day of its intention to accept the Potsdam Declaration provided that the Tenno sysem be retained. The Allied reply to this communication was received on August 13.

Consequently, a joint meeting of the Cabinet and the Supreme Council for the Direction of War was held during the night of August 13, lasting until the following morning.

The question of the Tenno system was the focal point of the discussions at the meeting, with two diametrically opposed views expressed by the participants.

Those who had supported Foreign Minister Togo's proposal insisted that Japan should accept the Potsdam Declaration, maintaining that reference in the Allied communication to "the order of the Emperor" in connection with the disarming of the armed forces indicated the Allied intention to recognize His Majesty's sovereign rights.

Opposed to this view were those supporters of the War Minister's proposal, who held that if restriction should be imposed on the Emperor after the armed forces had been completely disarmed, the country would be thrown into chaotic conditions of utmost proportions beyond any hope of restoring to normalcy. They maintained that for fear of such a chaos that might be brought about, continuation of the war to the bitter end should be preferred to the acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration.

(To Be Continued)

SITTING IN ON THE DIET

A resolution urging the Government to exert greater efforts to realize the importation of foodstuff was adopted and three supplementary budget bills approved by the House of Representatives at its plenary session Wednesday afternoon.

When the session opened at 1:26 p.m., a resolution jointly submitted by all parties urging the importation of foodstuff was presented. Gonichi Kodaira, Progressive, explained the reason for the presentation of the resolution, and Tsunejiro Matsuyama, Liberal, delivered an address in support of it. The resolution was unanimously adopted, and Agriculture and Forestry Minister Kenzo Matsumura promised to exert utmost efforts to increase food production and also to import foodstuff.

A bill for revision of the national savings law sent from the House of Peers was introduced and referred to a committee for study. The bills for abolition of the air defense law, the oil industry law and 13 other laws, were submitted to the House. After Home Vice-Minister Yamazaki, Transportation Minister Takeo Tanaka, and Commerce and Industry Minister Sankuro Ogasawara had explained these bills, they were referred to a committee.

The report of the committee on the bill for revision of the criminal trial law was submitted by Chairman Sadakichi Hitotsumatsu. Respecting a draft amendment of the bill, Kiyoshi Ito, Progressive representing lawyer members of the House, explained the reason for the proposed amendment. The amended bill was unanimously approved, and submitted to the House of Peers.

Three bills for supplementing the 1945 fiscal year revenue and expenditure were submitted, and Chairman Yadanji Nakajima of the Budget Committee reported on the findings of the Committee. Upon the approval of the three bills by the House, they were immediately sent to the House of Peers.

The plenary session of the House of Representatives adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

The labor union law bill committee of the House of Representatives met at 10:25 a.m. Wednesday.

Hisayoshi Muramatsu, Progressive, asked the Government whether the basic principle behind the proposed legislation was for unity of labor and capital or for their confrontation. Welfare Minister Dr. Hitoshi Ashida replied that all classes should cooperate under the new situation. Muramatsu further asked if the participation of workers in management could be promised in labor contracts, and the Welfare Minister replied that it is not compulsory. The interpellator further asked whether labor contracts can disregard official wage rates, and whether or not contracts for miximum wages that surpass the controlled rate would be permitted. Director Takahashi of the Labor Administration Bureau Welfare Ministry, answered that contracts respecting wages must be within the official rate, and that when such contracts are made they would become void. Muramatsu asked the government what would happen when commodity prices rise, and Director Takahashi replied that if it were contrary to national policy, Article 32 of the proposed law would be invoked.

What will happen when wages rise to such an extent that individual enterprises become unable to operate, the interpellator asked. Then the employer will appeal to the labor committee, Director Takahashi replied. Then Muramatsu asked whether tenant farmers' unions will come under the law. Director Takahashi answered in the negative.

Muramatsu asked if workers in the fishery industry and farmers would be included in unions. Director Takahashi answered that all workers who make their livelihood by earning wages or salaries are included in the provision of the law, but tenant farmers are not included.

In reply to a question asked by Kiyoshi Masaki, Social Democrat, Director Takahashi said that labor disputes of government and public officials or those employed by public organizations are to be arbitrated or mediated, and it is only when they cannot be settled by arbitration or mediation that they will be able to take action. He also said that when such people intend to or take action, government offices may order them to stop.

Masaki also questioned about such cases when labor and capital did not approve the representatives of the other side in the arbitration Committee, refering to the recent case of the Yomiuri-Hochi, and Director Takahashi said that such cases will not happen hereafter as steps will be taken to avoid such a possibility. The interpellator also asked whether the basic principle of the Welfare Minister is capitalism or socialism. Welfare Minister Ashida replied that nothing but socialism that fits the condition of Japan will progress here. Under the present condition, Japan is not able to understand fully even democracy, and if democracy is forced upon the people, the result will make those who are eager to work lose their willingness to work, the Welfare Minister said.

Masaki also said that labor unions are being formed for the benefit of capitalists who are taking advantage of the low intelligence of workers. This will lead to a dreadful reaction, he said. The Welfare Minister said that he has not heard of such cases but admitted that it might be unavoidable in the transient period.

The session closed at 5:30 p.m.

The sums of money which have been temporarily paid to the Allied forces in Japan constitute only a part of the Allied occupation costs, it was made public by Finance Minister Viscount Weizo Shibusawa on Wednesday.

In his reply to an interpellation made by Tosaka Tanaka, Independent, at Wednesday's general meeting of the Budget Committee of the Lower House, Shibusawa revealed that the sums of money paid as occupation costs of the Allied forces by the Bank of Japan since August up to November totaled more than ¥1,100,000,000 or a monthly average of around ¥300,000,000.

Meanwhile it is recalled that the Allied Headquarters disclosed the monthly occupation costs of the Allied troops in Japan as amounting to some 170 per man. Estimating the number of the Allied occupation troops at present in our country at 460,000, the monthly occupation costs aggregate $78,200,000 or ¥1,073,500,000 as calculated on the exchange rate basis of one U.S. Dollar per ¥15.

It is understood that of the Allied monthly occupation costs amounting to more than ¥1,000,000,000 only a part has been paid with Bank of Japan notes, while the remainder, totaling more than ¥700,000,000 per month has been paid with U.S. Dollars or been met by materials from the United States.

At the meeting of the House of Representatives committee on the Salt Monopoly Law, Government committeemen on Wednesday pressed the view that it was considered to be still premature to sell the monopoly industries to civilians.

Difficulty in operating the salt manufacturing industry without Government subsidies and a possible confusion in the supply and demand relations due to scarcity of salt were the chief reasons Director Ueki of the Salt Monopoly Bureau cited to justify his assertion that the selling of the salt industry to civilians is premature. Director Ueki also said that a scarcity of salt, will cause abnormal rise in its price, if the powerful distribution system as in accordance with the Salt Monopoly Law were not to be in force.

"The state financial conditions do not permit the selling of the tobacco industry to civilians an excise tax should be imposed, it is not considered that the imposition of the tax will bring about the income desired by the Government, he added.

Furthermore, the quality of manufactured tobacco will not be improved immediately after the transfer of the tobacco industry to civilian management when the present situation of raw materials and equipment is taken into consideration, Yutani concluded.

GIVEN DEATH SENTENCE

Leader of Dutch Nazi Party Convicted of Collaboration

Kyodo-AP

THE HAGUE, December 12.—Anton Mussert, leader of the Dutch Nazi Party, was today sentenced to death by a special court following conviction on charges of collaborating with the Germans.

40 Persons Convicted

Kyodo-AP

DACHAM, Germany, December 12.—All 40 defendants of the Dacham atrocity trial were convicted by the United States military government court of participation in crimes at one of the Nazis' most notorious concentration camps.

No. 2 Gestapo Docked

Kyodo-AP

NUERNBERG, December 10.—Ernest Kaltenbrunger, once dreaded No. 2 man in the Gestapo, joined 20 other top Nazis in the prisoners' dock before the international military tribunal and pleaded innocent to war crimes charges.

Rice Imports Asked To End Coal Dearth

500,000 Bushels From Korea Would Realize a Boost in Rations for Miners

For the purpose of increasing the rice ration to coal miners in order to save the nation from the present coal shortage, the Commerce and Industry Ministry formally applied to the Supreme Command for the Allied Powers for permission to import 100,000 koku or 500,000 bushels of rice from Korea to cover the needs for January, February and March, next year.

This request has no connection with the 15,000,000 bushels of rice desired by Japan to meet the need of the general public. As collateral, matches, porcelain, electric utensils, bamboo goods and others will be offered.

If this request is granted, it is calculated that one extra meal a day can be given to about 1,000,000 coal miners and their families, including 240,000 miners now working. This increased ration is expected to stimulate the coal output.

When this increased food ration to coal miners and families materializes and the supply of explosives, mine props, iron, steel and other materials is improved and the departure of Koreans and Chinese progresses smoothly, the coal production will be increased greatly above the already fixed plan of 600,000 tons in January, 615,000 tons in February and 700,000 tons in March to reach 990,000 tons in January, 1,095,000 tons in February and 1,250,000 tons in March, as the Commerce and Industry Minister had explained in the Diet.

REPATRIATING JAPANESE

Kyodo-AP

SHANGHAI, December 11.—Lieutenant General Albert Wedemeyer, Commander of the United States Forces in China, said today that his conversations with General MacArthur and other top United States commanders were concerned primarily with the repatriation of upward of 6,000,000 Japanese.

He declared: "Our biggest problem is to get shipping allocated equally to various areas to insure a steady and maximum flow of Japanese to Japan."

Financing German Imports

Kyodo-AP

WASHINGTON, December 11.—The State Department announced today a bread scale economic policy for Germany which calls on the United States and other Allied Powers to finance the program of German imports over the next two years. No estimate of the amount of money involved was made but it was believed that the American share might run into hundreds of millions.

Accepts Gates' Resignation

Kyodo-AP

WASHINGTON, December 10.—President Truman today accepted the resignation, effective December 31, of Artemus L. Gates, Undersecretary of the Navy Gates recently reported to President Truman an conditions in China where he made a tour. The White House said that Gates offered to resign last September but the President persuaded him to remain on the job until the and of the year.

Yasukuni Shrine Back to Original Status With Fade-Out of Military Interference

Yasukuni Shrine, where the spirits of Japan's fighting men and others who have offered their lives for the sake of the nation have been enshrined ever since the Meiji Restoration will be renamed the Yasukuni Byogu and placed under the supervision of a juridical person, severing all relations with the Government.

The authorities of the Yasukuni Shrine came to this decision in full consideration of the directive of the Supreme Command for the Allied Forces respecting Shinto, and also after consultation with the families of the war-dead.

Its status as a special Government shrine will thus be given up, and it will henceforth receive no subsidy nor protection from the State. Its operation will be directed by a council composed of members selected from among the families of the war-dead.

Yasukuni Shrine was originally named Tokyo Shokonsha, having been established at Kudan in 1869 in accordance with the wishes of the Emperor Meiji. In 1879, it was renamed Yasukuni Jinja and made a special Government shrine.

Originally, those enshrined there were not restricted to army and navy men who had sacrificed their lives for the sake of the Empire, the wish of the Emperor Meiji being to honor all those who had devoted their life to the interest of the Empire. But after passing under the supervision of the War and Navy Ministries in 1887, it had been recognized as the shrine for army and navy men. The former Chief Priest, Momoki Kamo, endeavored to abolish this evil tendency, but the pressure from the army and navy further increased, particularly with the Manchurian and Chinese incidents. In 1938, he was replaced by General Takao Suzuki. Since then, the military authorities have frequently interfered in the affairs of the shrine, and also utilized it as a means for propagating militarism.

The Army and Navy are no longer existent, and thus, the shrine has come to regain its original status.

Viewing The Diet

By Our Special Observer

With the Lower House budget committee session having ended on Wednesday and the Upper House opening its budget session yesterday, the scene seems to have moved to the Upper Chamber. The Lower House still has two vital bills for deliberation—agrarian reform and Labor Union Law—but now that SCAP has issued the "free the farmer" directive, it appears that "everything is over" for that House so far as the farmer bill is concerned. This directive was a subtle reminder for the Japanese people regarding the miserable condition to which their country has been reduced.

Whereas the plenary session is, so to speak, the main stage for the Diet members, the budget committee meeting may be likened to the greenroom, where the Government and Diet men talk knee-to-knee over minute details of administration. While colorful oratory marks the plenary session, the budget committee meetings are often scenes of intense struggles between the Government representatives and committeemen with the latter mobilizing their wit and tactics to drive the former at bay with tactful, and often malicious questioning, which has in the past often proved to be a blasting-fuse for the overthrow of the government.

In spite of the heavy pressure exercised in the Diet, budget committee sessions even during the war were replete with a tense atmosphere with intensive oratorical contests developing between the Government and Diet representatives. The Lower House budget committee meetings which ended Wednesday were rather dull, on the whole, but, nevertheless, it would not be out of place here to pick up a few notable statements from the minutes of the proceedings.

Of financial problems, Finance Minister Shibusawa testified:

"The balance sheet for the 1945-6 fiscal year will see a deficit amounting to ¥1,600,000,000...... No definite plan concerning new items of expenditures including Allied occupation cost, reparations and war damage rehabilitation appropriations has yet been formulated..... War profit and property taxes will be newly instituted to appropriate ¥100,000,000,000 for bond recovery. .... Taxes will be increased on income and articles of luxury ... "New" yen notes will be issued next year.

The Finance Minister also submitted to the committee a hastily-formulated skeleton five-year financial program of which the writer would like to refrain from commenting on in view of its too contradictory nature. The response of the committee to this program was as dull as the plan itself, with no constructive proposal such as would uproot the cause of inflation being forwarded. The committee remained lukewarm in proposing abrogation of industrial indemnification, which has been a subject of much heated public discussions, thus enabling the Government to "sail smoothly" with its original plan to keep their promises to war plants.

Discussions on the food problem showed that the Government and Diet could see eye-to-eye at least on one question, that is, the import of foodstuffs totaling 3,000,000 tons It was made clear that without this vital condition, neither the Government nor the legislators would be able to see any meaning in discussions an the crucial food problem.

The second question was whether to increase the ration of staple foo[d] fixed at about 300 grams a day present. The Diet especially t[he] Progressive Party, urged that t[he] rice ration should be boosted three "go" or approximately 4[..] grams "in order to 'pep up' t[he] prostrated masses" but Agricultu[re] and Forestry Minister Matsumu[ra] remained as cautious as one can b[e]. The Social Democrats, meanwhil[e] proposed a "frugal diet system" along Socialist lines to cover a[ll] classes of the nation.

The war guilt issue gained momentum as it developed to in[-]clude the position of the Emper[or] in the course of the session. T[he] Government has remained consisten[t] or one might say adamant, in [its] stand that His Imperial Majesty w[as] free from any responsibility for th[e] war, while the Diet, on the whol[e] followed suit. Prime Minister Shide[-]hara insisted that war crimina[ls] should not be punished judicially bu[t] should be subjected to a social, mor[al] sanction which, in his opinoin, w[as] "enough to attain the objective."

While no official interpretatio[n] came from the Government on th[e] controversial Constitution amen[d-]ment issue, Dr. Joji Matsumoto Minister without Portfolio in charg[e] of the job, expressed his perso[nal] opinion:

"The Emperor's authority fo[r] overall supervision of administratio[n] will remain unaltered.... Th[e] Diet's authority will be expande[d] to a large degree.... Portfoli[o] holders will assume an overall re[-]sponsibility for administration ... Rights and interests of the peop[le] will be protected."

In reference to this problem, Cho[-]zaburo Mizutani, Social Democrat insisted that democratization o[f] Japan's administration would b[e] impossible without revision of th[e] first four articles of the Constitutio[n] whereupon Dr. Matsumoto retorte[d] saying that it was "technically" possible. Matsumoto also said tha[t] the trend of democratization i[n] Japan will, in the end, resembl[e] the process witnessed in Gre[at] Britain. He asserted further tha[t] the Communists' cry for overthro[w] of the Tenno system was not matu[re] enough to be made a subject of theo[-]retical arguments.

House debates also centered aroun[d] the questions of the Privy Counci[l] House of Peers Ordinance, and th[e] Potsdam Declaration in relation [to] the objective of democratizing Japa[n].

The writer regrets to recall tha[t] the Diet failed to give more thoroughgoing scrutiny on issues having vital bearing on the livelihoo[d] of the masses such as finance, foo[d] and labor while no definite policie[s] on these problems were clarified—another testimony to the reactionar[y] character of the present Diet.

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Prisoners at Sugamo Given Kind Treatment

Clean Cells and Good Food Mark Every Day Life of Japanese War Suspects

Are the former leaders of Japan, now prisoners in Sugamo prison waiting for trials as war criminals penitent of where they are?

The Asahi asked this question at the end of a story about the prison and the life among the inmates on the basis of account of an American newspaper photographer, and said in the heading of the story that the people wish greatly to know the thoughts that must flash in the minds of these prisoners in their cells at the dead of night.

The Asahi story follows:

Escaping the fire that destroyed Tokyo in air raids there stand in the center of a plot of land a series or buildings, looking more like munitions factories than anything else in the world, hemmed in by a long wall. Inside this enclosure a building is in the course of construction at top speed. Looking like a plane hanger, it is for the temporary occupation of American troops. This series of buildings in the enclosure are the Sugamo prison where General Hideki Tojo, former Prime Minister, and other persons named by the Allied Headquarters as suspected war criminals are waiting for trials.

Vast Changes Made

A look at the prison at a short distance from it shows that there is not about the place the dismal air that is suggested by the name it is under. The place has since it was taken over by the American forces been altered. The wall round the place has been repainted in the color of cream, pleasing to the eye. There is another factor in softening the effect of the appearance of the place on the mind in the constant goings and comings of American soldiers with busy air about them.

Speaking of the air of the place, Kisaburo Ando, former Vice-President of the Imperial Rule Assistasce Association, ordered arrested as a war criminal by the Allied Headquarters, moved to the place Tuesday morning. He drove to the prison accompanied by many relatives and friends, in a procession of cars. The send-off was as grand as any that had ever been accorded a man consigned to the place.

On the afternoon of the same day, Dr. Hiroshi Shimomura, former President of the Board of Information, and Seizo Kobayashi, former Governor General of Formosa, entered the prison. Wednesday saw a number of militarists, politicians, financiers and moulders of public opinion, enter the place.

There is a man, an inmate of the place, who left it on Wednesday. He is Lieutenant General Masaharu Homma, former Supreme Commander of the Expeditionary Army in the Philippines. He left at 6 a.m. for Atsugi airport. There he was expected to board a plane which will take him to Manila for a trial on charges that he was responsible for the air raids on the undefended city of Manila and the massacres of American war prisoners.

Homma's fate will probably be the fate of the men already in Sugamo prison and those who entered it on Wednesday.

What is the life among the suspected war criminals in the prison, away from their relatives and friends?

Living in Solitary Cells

AP photographer Wilson, who visited the prison Tuesday, said: "The Japaense war criminals are for the most part living in solitary cells. Some are in twos. The cells are clean and rather comfortable.

"Their food are prepared by Japanese cooks, there is a fairly large amount of meat and vegetables for them. There are also pies and foreign style confectionery. They have enough to eat. So they are denied food from their relatives and friends.

"They can walk and bathe in the sun two times a day, in the morning and in the afternoon. If they have the permission of the authorities concerned they can read or talk to other inmates. They can give themselves a hot bath once in a month. In short, the treatment accorded these war criminals is such as one would be thankful for."

We wonder to what thoughts the prisoners will be a prey when in their cells they open their eye-lids at the dead of night. Penitence? Or self-invindication? The people wish greatly to know the secrets of their hearts.

Food Union Makes Demand

A grand rally sponsored by the Tokyo Metropolitan Foodstuff Supply Corporation Employes Union was held at the Kogyo Kaikan on Sunday morning, attended by all the employes, reports the Asahi. At the meeting the employes accused the corporation of having discharged 2,676 of their fellow workers on the ground that the corporation suffered a loss amounting to ¥1,000,000 during September and October. A resolution demanding the democratization of management, rationalization of financial matters and improvement of remunerations, was also presented to the director of the corporation.

New Year Rations for People of Tokyo, Including 'Mochi,' Seen As a Possibility

With the war over and the New Year fast on its way, Tokyoites are beginning to ponder how they will be able to garner the foodstuffs necessary to celebrate the New Year in the traditional manner.

Fully aware that the people expect the government to do something about the matter, the authorities of Tokyo Metropolis have been mapping out a plan for New Year rations. Therefore, all goes well, Tokyoites can expect to have on their tables at the New Year such traditional foodstuffs as the following:

What tops the list is sake of which one "sho" or about three pints, given five "go" at a time, once at the year end and again in the new year, will be distributed to each household. Single women will come in for their share of this beverage, getting four "go."

With cooking oil being pooled up for rationing now, hopes may be entertained of each person getting one "go" while ten "momme" of "kombu," 15 "momme" of preserves cooked in soy sauce and eight "momme" of dried herring roe which, gratifying to say, increases to double portion when simply soaked in water, will help to liven the New Year meal.

Each person will get some gelatine, although how much remains unknown, variety if not a quantity of vegetables as radish, carrots, raw ginger, lotus roots and Chinese lettuce, and 100 "momme" of tangerines. But the price of greens and fruit is steep so only those who want them need get them.

Something like biscuits in the way of sweets will be given out, 10 "momme" to a person. Also two sheets of dried seaweed will be rationed out to one person but the irony of it is that if you get it through the proper ration channels this item of food will cost more than blackmarket seaweed. As a result of the price bids, Chiba seaweed now being sold in the metropolis costs ¥6.50 net. Add to this ¥2 in commodity tax which makes the price ¥8 50 and it is 50 sen higher than the price demanded by street venders.

Salted salmon may or may not be available but this will soon be decided after talks with Agriculture and Forestry Ministry. Prospects for clams is bright, the amount to be rationed depending on the amount shipped.

And what is the supreme requirement to a proper New Year's is "mochi" cake, the rice for which will rationed out, one kilogram per person in place of ordinary rice. So one is advised to get it steamed and pounded on one's own at the nearest un-bombed out place. All in all, if we get all that's promised us, a fairly passable New Year's feast may be enjoyed.

Shanghailanders Hit By Vicious Inflation

Valueless Paper Money Worth CRB ¥300 Billion Flooded City at War End

Revealing the vicious inflation he had witnessed in Shanghai, Shozo Namba, Kyodo correspondent, who returned to Japan on December 8 aboard the Yumei Maru, the first vessel bringing back Japanese repatriates from China, said that at the beginning of December, one pair of shoes cost CRB ¥2,000,000 and one box of matches CRB ¥2,000, showing an increase of commodity prices by 350,000 times as compared with that at the outset of the China Affair in 1937.

Disclosing the true condition of Shanghai following the termination of the war, Namba further said, "Upon learning of Japan's surrender over the radio on August 15, Japanese residents in the city were seized with sorrow and astonishment while the Chinese were overwhelmed with joy and excitement. Chinese newspaper extras were scattered all over the city informing the unconditional surrender of Japan. Meanwhile, Japanese forces on the China front were suffering from lack of food.

"Worthless paper money flooded the city and CRB ¥300,000,000,000 were circulated when the war ended. One pair of shoes was priced at ¥1,000.000 and one box of matches at ¥1,200. Commodity prices have increased daily since the end of the war. The price of one pair of shoes skyrocketed to ¥2,000,000 and one box of matches to ¥3,000 at the time we left Shanghai.

"Amid chaos and restlessness, Japanese residents were ordered to gather at a certain designated section by October 13," continued the Kyodo correspondent. "At present some are staying with their friends and others at schools or hospitals, experiencing inconveniences of collective living. Meanwhile, the Chinese Government and American authorities have been doing their utmost to safeguard the Japanese. With the arrival of the Japanese from the Changkiang area, the total number of Japanese in Shanghai reached about 100,000. All matters relative to the Japanese there have been handled by the headquarters of the Third Army commanded by General Tang En-po, who had occupied the Shanghai area since October 13.

"In the meantime, the Overseas Japanese Society headed by Minister Yutaka Tsuchida is attending to the welfare of the Japanese including the safeguarding of the people's livelihood, relief of the needy, revision of textbooks for elementary schools, improvement of medical facilities and eradication of militaristic ideas. Some of the Japanese have opened little stalls in designated sections in an effort to earn their own living. Some 3,000 Japanese have expressed their desire to take out Chinese citizenship.

"Following the end of the war, Shanghai has revived as an international city, with British and American residents who were incarcerated during the war and the Jews who lived in the eastern section, all reappearing on the streets. German and Italian residents were ordered to converge in the central sector of the city with their movement strictly watched.

"Skirmishes between the Communist forces who are operating in the hinterland and along the coast of Central China and the National troops are becoming aggravated daily. Due to constant hostilities between these opposing forces, the city is suffering from an acute shortage of commodities. As to political and ideological activities, no definite changes have been noticed, but in the cultural field the influence of the Soviet Union has become manifest. Some stage performances and moving pictures tinged with Bolshevism have made their debut while a great number of American pictures are being screened, thus bringing about an ideological competition."

RADIO PROGRAM

Friday, December 14

ARMED FORCES RADIO NETWORK

0630—RISE AND SHINE; 0700—MORNING MEDITATIONS; 0710—MUSICAL MOODS; 0730—NEWS; 0745—Melody Round-Up; 0800—TUNES AND TIME; 0815—G I Jive; 0830—RHYTHM AND ROMANCE; 0300—WAX MUSEUM; 0930—CONTRASTS IN MUSIC; 1000—Across The Board; 1015—Raymond Scott; 1030—At Ease; 1045—CLAUDE FRANK; 1100—Harlem On Parade; 1115—SHOWCASE; 1130—Fred Waring; 1200—Remember; 1215—Yank Bandstand; 1230—NEWS; 1245—THE SOPHISTICATS; 1300—GEMS OF JAZZ; 1330—MATINEE MELODIES; 1400—TOKYO MOSE; 1500—Showtime; 1530—WALT JEFFERY; 1545—SERENADE IN BLUE; 1600—Music Hall; 1600—Music Hall; 1630—Comedy Caravan; 1700—Magic Carpet; 1715—Supper Club; 1730—HERE'S TO ROMANCE; 1800—NEWS; 1815—CROSS-VIEWS OF THE SPORTS-NEWS; 1830—James Melton; 1900—Music Depreciation; 1930—Hall Of Fame; 2000—SHOWER OF STARS; 2030—Eddie Cantor; 2100—Waltz Time; 2130—Mystery Playhouse; 2200—NEWS; 2215—One Night Stand; 2245—Words With Music; 2300—SIGN OFF.

(Shows in CAPS produced in the Tokyo studios.)

RADIO TOKYO, JOAK

National (870 kcs.)

0630—English exercise; 0300—Music; 1000—Children's Hour; 1130—Music; 1215—Pipe organ; 1330-1530-1800—Music; 1830—English conversation; 2030—Piano concert No. 4, in G Major (Beethoven), by Nippon Symphony Orchestra and Motonari Iguchi, piano.

Local (1260 Kcs.)

0630-0700—Music; 1700—Young Men and Students' Hour; 1730—Music; 1900—Gidayu music; 2030—Light Music.

Toppan Strikers Win

The strike by employes of the Toppan Printing Company continuing since Sunday ended on Tuesday through negotiations between the president and the employes. As a result of the talks, the demand for recognition of their, labor union, a 200 per cent wage boost and a eight-hour working system, was accepted by the company.

Obituary

Hiroshi Funatsu, 51, chief public procurator of the Nagoya Court of Appeal, died suddenly of apoplexy on Tuesday when worshipping at the Asama Shrine, Shizuoka. He was director of the Bureau of Criminal Affairs of the Justice Ministry and was shifted to the present post only recently.

Inhuman Massacre Of Children Is Bared

Bayoneting of 20 Japanese Tots Ordered by Cold-Blooded Officer

One of the most gruesome and cold-blooded stories of the war in which more than 20 Japanese children under ten years of age were mercilessly stabbed and butchered to death by Japanese soldiers was brought to light Monday by Mrs. Haru Tomohana, a 29-year-old mother of four of the ill-fated children.

"The order of the horrible killing," Mrs. Tomohana said, "was given by a Japanese army Captain named Aoki who claimed that the children were becoming a burden to the Japanese army." She further revealed that the incident took place at Cebu Island in the Philippines, from where she was recently repatriated, when reports were received that Allied Forces had landed on the island.

The gist of Mrs. Tomohana's story as revealed to the press is as follows:—

"I was living on Palao Island with my husband, Zentoku Tomohana, who was engaged in shipping business there until August of last year, when we received an order to evacuate. I was separated from my husband and removed to Cebu City together with my elder sister as well as my four children.

Worked for Army

"As air raids grew in intensity, we were transferred to Tenzan mountain near the city. There I was employed by the local Japanese army storehouse as a tailoress. When off duty I was engaged in the construction of air raid shelters, carrying my youngest child on my back side by side with Japanese soldiers and civilian residents.

"On April 6, Allied forces landed on Cebu Island, and Japanese troops immediately retreated into mountainous regions. We, Japanese civilians, also accompanied the troops attached to the military storehouse led by Captain Aoki, who treated us as if we were a nuisance to the army.

"Then came a horrible morning, which I will never forget. On the morning of April 16, Captain Aoki called together more than ten mothers of children, including myself. He ordered us that children under 10 years of age be 'disposed of' as of that night, because they were an obstacle to Japanese military operations. These mothers of more than 20 children desperately pleaded with Captain Aoki to save their children and offered their lives instead.

"Nevertheless, the cold-blooded officer refused their plea and the night visited us at last. Thinking that I must at least save one of my four children by all means I asked my elder sister to take my eldest son with her into the jungle to seek refuge there. In the meantime, I myself was waiting with bated breath, with my three children inside the fateful tent with other mothers.

Dressed in Best Clothes

"All mothers dressed their ill-fated children in their best clothes, which gave great pleasure to the children, who soon fell sound sleep. At midnight these children were brutally awakened by Japanese soldiers. To the children who cried in hunger, a good deal of milk which they longed for even in their dreams was distributed. Then we mothers were all forced out of the tent at the threat of the glittering bayonets of the soldiers.

"We all embraced each other as we were told to keep away from the tent. After a lapse of about an hour, the cries of "mama" were heard mingled with horrible screams. We also heard the groans of our children. We were heart-broken and couldn't stand it and some tried to rush into the tent, but were blocked by the bayonets of Japanese soldiers whose faces looked like fiends.

"The night of horror passed and morning came. We again started on an aimless trip of escape. My eldest son escaped the massacre because of the benevolent pleas of a squad leader named Sergeant Fujino. He saw to it that my child would walk along as strongly as the other children who also were fortunate enough to escape the massacre.

"To the mothers of these fortunate children, at last came a despairing, horrible moment. At the beginning of June we camped beside River Katamon. Captain Aoki ordered the massacre of the eight remaining children, because of food shortage and said that the order came from the unit commander Lieutenant-General Asama.

Aoki's Concubine Pleas

"Against this heartless cold-blooded order, pleas were made even by Kii Moriguchi who came from Palao with us and who was forced to become a concubine of Captain Aoki. Captain Aoki was one of the most ruthless officers I have ever known, He would beat his soldiers on any slight charge of violation of his orders.

"At length, we made up our mind to leave the Japanese troops and to follow our own course. While we were making preparations for our plot, however, we were caught and our eight children crying in horror were forcibly taken away from our hands. Right in front of our faces, our children were mercilessly bayonetted to death.

"We tried to rush to the scene of butchery, but we were again blocked by the soldiers, while the bodies of our children were thrown into a hole which was covered by mud. Apparently the bayonets failed to completely kill some of the children, because of haste and carelessness and the pretty little hands of some of the children were sticking out from the mud as if they were calling for help.

"I tore myself away from the grasping arms of the soldiers and rushed to the hole, I dug and dug with my hands with all my might. The soldiers just looked on as if they were at a loss, with their bloody bayonets in their hands."

Broke Down in Tears

"When I finally succeeded in finding the bodies of the eight ill-fated children, I—I—" At this point Mrs. Tomohana broke down in tears . . . and her story ended.

All reporters who were present to hear her story patted her quietly on the back, and left one by one amazed and horrified by the most gruesome story ever brought back to Japan by a Japanese.

Meanwhile, Kyodo learned that Captain Aoki, the officer in question, was a native of Kagoshima Prefecture and was attached to the Fifth Engineer Regiment in Kagoshima City. He was in charge of a military storehouse in South Central Philippines of the Fourteenth District Army. It was also learned that Captain Aoki is still alive as a prisoner of war in one of the Prisoners Camps in Mindanao Island.

People Fail To Take Up 'Free Ride' Offer Made by Striking Keisei Line Operators

A novel strike strategy was put into effect Tuesday when workers of the Keisei Electric Railway started a "free travel service" from 5 p.m.

The Keisei men who have been negotiating with the management for some time for higher wages gave up hope for the company's "sincerity" on Tuesday and launched active battle by carrying into effect the method of strike hitherto unheard of.

At the Keisei Ueno Station, terminus of the Keisei line which runs from Tokyo to Narita, a placard was hung up which declared:

"To express our gratitude for your long patronage, we have started a 'Kindness Free Service.' However, we solicit your sympathetic understanding as cars are not operated very frequently because a number of coaches are under repair. Labor Union, Keisei Electric Railway."

A Mainichi reporter found the staff members of the station all at their posts as usual. They told him that the line was being operated as one-third normal operation. The station authorities said that the number of passengers, in spite of the attractive offer of free service, was one-fifth the average rate. This, they explained, is due to fear on the part of the passengers that the operation of the line might be stopped at any moment.

The negotiations between the Keisei labor union men and the management collapsed on Monday when the latter promised a five-month bonus, increase of family allowance from the present five yen to ¥20 and a ¥20 allowance to unmarried employes, whereas the strikers insisted on their original demand for a wage increase comprising five times their present salaries.

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TOKYO, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1945

The Plight of Japanese Agriculture

The Allied directive of a few days ago calling for fundamental agrarian reforms can occasion nothing but general approval. Government purchase of land from absentee owners and the sale of this land to tenant farmers on easy terms, establishment of protective measures to safeguard against reversion to tenancy on the part of the purchasers, and the lightening of the burden of high rentals and heavy indebtedness for the farming class generally, which this directive calls for, have long been recognized as being necessary. In fact, there is before the Diet already a bill designed to carry out such measures. But the issuance of the Allied directive at this time must mean that the Government bill is not thorough enough or that the Diet is being too dilatory in acting upon the bill. The Allied move to spur Japanese action is therefore all to the good.

But it is to be questioned how far any such measures can fundamentally and permanently improve the lot of the farming population of Japan. Of course, all the projected measures will help. They will undoubtedly be effective in eliminating inequalities and injustices with regard to tax burdens and credit facilities, with regard to arbitrary crop quotas and oppressive regulations, and with regard to exploitation by processors and distributors. These are abuses which are amenable to reform, and the reform must be carried out. And the reform along these lines will undoubtedly improve the lot of the farmers to a considerable degree. But after all these things have been done, will not the condition of the farmers still continue to be far from satisfactory? Is not the plight of Japanese agriculture inherently pretty hopeless?

It should be remembered that not so many decades ago, the greater proportion of the agricultural land was actually owned by the cultivators. Today most of that land has gone into the ownership of absentee owners with the cultivators reduced to the status of tenants. The chief cause for this loss of ownership on the part of the cultivators is the fact that operating costs are so high that they cannot be met under the prevailing prices for agricultural products. Constantly falling into debt, therefore, the farmers were forced to mortgage their farms and subsequently were forced to forfeit their mortgages.

But the concentration of land ownership in the hands of absentee owners' who acquired their land through mortgage foreclosures has not particularly benefited these owners. For despite the high rentals, amounting often to a levy in kind of more than half the principal crop, the returns to the landlords were far less than the returns from a comparable amount of capital invested in commerce or industry. Landowners, therefore, regard agriculture as a subsidiary pursuit, relying on their other activities for the main part of their income. In other words, only people with independent incomes could afford to be farm owners.

Thus it can be seen that agriculture is not a paying proposition for either the farmer or for the absentee landlord, although the latter generally is of an economic class which has other income than only the returns from the land to take care of his livelihood. Transferring the ownership of the land from the absentee owners back to the cultivators is not going to change this fundamental fact that there is no money to be made from farming under any form of tenure.

The basic cause for this condition is that the population of Japan is too great for the area of the country. Too many people and too little land, through the operation of the law of supply and demand, result in too high a price for agricultural land. To secure an adequate return on this investment, a prodigiously high productivity per acre must be maintained, which means the use of large quantities of expensive fertilizers and the application of a tremendous amount of human labor. The price of agricultural products cannot be raised sufficiently to meet these high operating costs, for there is a limit to the purchasing ability of the consumers. Squeezed between expensive investment and high operating costs on the one side and limited prices on the other, the net balance accruing to the individual farmer is necessarily pitifully small, and this will be true whether he owns the land himself or rents it.

There is no fundamental solution save through the drastic reduction of the population or a drastic expansion in territory, both of which are impossible. Artificial solutions are theoretically possible through government subsidies to the consumers so that agricultural prices can be raised to a point where farm incomes will more than take care of farm costs, or through government subsidies to the farmers so that they will be able to meet their high costs despite the present prices, or through the nationalization of agriculture whereby the government itself takes over the ownership and operation of the farms at a loss as a public utility. But all of these schemes require far more money than the government has any hope of acquiring.

One other solution is to abandon agriculture as a major economic activity for Japan. Japan will then become a nation of processors, handling raw materials sent to her from other countries, processing this raw material into finished goods for export, and using the earnings from this process to buy cheap food from countries which can produce food more economically than Japan.

In any case it must mean the frank recognition that agriculture in Japan, by the very nature of things, is not economically feasible. Agrarian reforms, abolition of absentee ownership, protection of peasant owners, amelioration of the conditions of tenancy, credit facilities, marketing facilities, reduction of fertilizer prices, education for the farmers and all such measures are highly desirable. They will remove inequalities and discriminations and will help to make the lot of the farmer somewhat more bearable. But after all, they are but palliatives which do not cure the root ill of Japanese agriculture. And they do not because there is no cure.

'Diversity of Opinion'

Kansas City Times

The American people will find nothing to be disturbed about in the fact that there is a sharp difference of opinion within the armed services over post-war reorganization of our national defense. Any intelligent layman realizes that the subject is immensely complex, and can readily understand how the lessons of the immediate past, present and future might be interpreted variously by experts equally competent and equally sincere.

The layman, moreover, instinctively will accept the contention reiterated by spokesmen for the Navy Department, in particular, that no one solution of the problem can be perfect and that what the nation should do is to balance the advantages and disadvantages of the several proposals.

'No Easy Way'

Milwaukee Journal

In this emotional crisis Congress has by no means been alone, even in Washington, in its surrendering to a general reversal from sacrifice and unselfishness. Congressmen all have been under tremendous-pressure from literally millions of individuals and thousands of groups, all seeking relief from restrictions or taxes or military service or some other form of contribution they had been asked to make to the national cause.

And yet every thinking American must realize, as General Marshall and so many others are trying to impress upon us, that our nation now stands at the crossroads. There is no easy way to world order, to world peace, to world prosperity, and there is no easy way to national security.

OPTIMISM IN JAPAN'S FUTURE EXPRESSED BY INDUSTRIALIST

Advances Ways and Means of Getting Out of the Mire and Building Up a Unique New Nation

Following is the gist of a round-table talk on the subject of "Building up New Japan" sponsored by the magazine Shinsei Nippon. The conferees were Ichizo Kobayashi, the industrialist, Dr. Hiroshi Shinjo, Professor at Kobe University of Economics, and Shigenobu Maeda, managing editor of the above-mentioned periodical.

MAEDA: We should like to hear your views on the reconstruction of Japan. Perhaps you will start off by telling us how to formulate new national land planning, how to rebuild the cities, etc.

KOBAYASHI: We may leave the State to do the planning, but we should not waste our time by relying on the State in the actual work of reconstructing the cities. It is time that we should lay down a new fundamental policy of local autonomy from a new standpoint. I would sugest that the task of rehabilitating the devastated cities, numbering 70 or 80, be entrusted to men of influence in the respective localities. Take, for instance, Nishinomiya, where Professor Shinjo lives. The work of reconstructing Nishinomiya might be left to Mr. Tatsuma: he is very influential there. I am sure Mr. Tatsuma, for the sake of his personal honor, would devote his resources to rebuilding the city of Nishinomiya. Were the project of reconstructing the 80-odd devastated cities to be left in the hands of influential men in the respective areas, I have little doubt that they would vie with one another in building up new, fine cities by their own ingenuity and on their own resources.

Of course, I do not mean to leave the task to these individuals without assistance. Assistance would be given by, say, exempting tax on reconstruction expenditures, on donations received for use in public service, etc. I do not know how much Mr. Tatsuma pays in tax, but supposing he made ¥50,000,000 and paid ¥40,000,000 of it in tax, he would, no doubt, find it more to his liking to spend the ¥40,000,000 on building up a model city. That would be better for the State, too.

Another thing I would suggest is to create what might be termed a Permanent Domicile Tax. That is, you live in Nishinomiya, Professor Shinjo, but you would pay the proposed tax in Kyoto, the place of your permanent domicile. The idea is to cultivate love of and a sense of devotion to one's native place. One may reside in any place convenient to him, but he would move his permanent domicile to a place that is after his heart and settle down there eventually. Naturally, his future generations would feel attached to that place as their native place. People would pay a Permanent Domicile Tax, which would be used for the good of their native place. In this way, they would keep in touch with their native place. Some of them would, presumably, offer voluntarily to rebuild their native city, if only as a sort of personal memorial undertaking.

Idea of Ideal City

SHINJO: What is your idea of an ideal city, Mr. Kobayashi?

KOBAYASHI: In the past, all activities in politics, economy and culture were conducted on a city-centric principle, and the cities, not excepting Osaka, were allowed to expand without limit along with the expansion of the national power. Such has been the process of the growth of urban districts. The result of the unlimited expansion of the cities has been that they have become sprawling without adequate facilities being provided. This is a great pity.

Hereafter, cities may be small but must be well planned, clean, comfortable, neat and compact. To this end, the first requisite is to reduce the price of land drastically. This calls for great decision. It is certainly improper that this matter should have been left untouched and that speculation in land by capitalists should have been permitted. Why, the safest get-rich-quick business has been to buy up land. People criticize and reproach the cornering of goods, but they have been tolerant of speculation in land.

I have been of the opinion that it is up to the State to look after food, clothing and abode for the people. As regards clothing, the needs have so far been met, thanks to the development of the spinning industry. As to food, shortages had been met somehow by importing rice up to the outbreak of the war. Bungling control measures, however, have brought on a food crisis since the war. Something has got to be done about it.

Wealthy Buy Up Land

In the matter of abode, for some inexplicable reason, nothing at all has been done against speculation in land. It has been left unchocked. The wealthy have kept on buying land heavily. No instances need be cited; everybody knows that. To be sure, office-building areas and amusement centers are regarded as an object of investment, and in view of the high rate of profit derivable, speculative buying of land in such quarters is understandable. Residential quarters are a different proposition altogether. On principle, there can be no profit to be made from buying sites for residences. If land is bought on speculation for the purpose of doing a tenant-house business, the high price paid for land is sure to result in high house-rents. Unreasonable raises in house-rents should not be left unarrested. Heavy buying of land as a business for investment by capitalists constitutes a social sin. Morally, too, there can be no reason why speculation in land should be left uncurbed, more especially as land is one of the indispensable requisites for living. In suburban residential districts in foreign countries, be they in the outskirts of Paris, London or New York or anywhere else, land can be had aplenty for as little as ¥2 or ¥3 per tsubo. Out here, and especially at Mikage and Ashiya (suburban districts between Osaka and Kobe), you have to pay ¥50 or ¥60 per tsubo. There's no such preposterous price for land in other countries. It is only in Japan. When you question the exhorbitant price, the answer given is invariably that the land of Japan is too small. But that does not hold water. Even in Hsinking, the price of land soared to ¥50 or $60 per tsubo in no time. Even the wide land of Manchuria, immediately it was made an object of speculation, came to fetch high prices.

Java's Example Cited

MAEDA: Is there any way to curb speculation in land.

KOBAYASHI: There is. There is an effective device in operation in Java. I found that out when I went there. As you know, Java has a population of some 60,000,000, the density being the thickest in the world. So heavy buying of land will not do. The device I refer to is to tax transfer registrations heavily. For instance, if land is bought for, say, ¥5, as much will be collected in tax; if for ¥10, as much will have to be paid in tax, and so on. In other words, a graduated tax. The heavier the purchase, the higher the rate of taxation. The idea is to preclude profit-making on speculation in land. I would supplement that with a system of taxing 50 per cent or more of the profit on each transaction in land. That is, if land were brought for ¥5 and re-sold for ¥10, half or more of the profit would be taken in tax. That might be a good idea.

MAEDA: Even if a man is to live a cultured life, there can be a limit to the need for space.

KOBAYASHI: In the case of a suburban residence, a house on a lot of 100 tsubo in area, modest but well-shaped, within easy reach of any one with a small fortune, equipped with not luxurious living rooms and provided with a vegetable patch large enough for the self-sufficiency of the household—that is the desirable type.

SHINJO: It would be ideal for each house to have a fairly wide vacant lot, but seeing that Japanese cities are already sprawling, I think we might as well follow the example of Vienna after World War I and build municipality-operated five or six-storied residences with spacious public vacant lots around them. This, it seems to me, would be a way to use land to good advantage.

SHINJO: It seems to me that inflation in the future permits of no optimism. Thus far, most people have either been in the munitions industries or connected with military undertakings. So they have not suffered much from inflation. From now on, however, many will lose their work or suffer reductions in their income, on the one hand. On the other, a huge outflow of Government funds will conitnue for some time to come and the digestion of such funds will be even more difficult than heretofore. If such a situation is left to take its course, poverty will prevail and a serious social issue will arise. There is no disputing the fact that the existing control measures have been anything but satisfactory, but it would be inadvisable to return to free economy outright on that account. We must be on our guard against despairing of the existing control measures just because they do not work well. Only when demand and supply are well balanced is free sale to be permitted.

The rice crop for this year is below normal. If rice were sold without control, people would not put up with the present ration of 2.1 "go" a day and they would also lay in stocks for future security. There would then be men who could not afford to buy rice. An import of 2,000,000 or 3,000,000 tons of rice is an indispensable prerequisite to permitting free sale of staple foods. In other words, it is necessary to create such circumstances as will cause Japan to give up all ideas about autarchy in favor of liberalistic ways of thinking. This is a point about which I would ask the Allied Powers to have a sympathetic understanding. In fact, I hold that the best preventive against inflation is the import of staple foods.

How far inflation will go depends entirely on ourselves. So the people, instead of looking at the question as somebody else, trouble, must be prepared to share the bitter wine of defeat with one another, put up with wants and pull through the crisis. The Government, on its part, is called upon to bend all its efforts to preventing inflation. If inflation is left to take its course, the effect will be something terrible.

KOBAYASHI: My advocacy of free sale is based on the fact that the average crops of rice, barley, rye, oat and wheat for the last five years, aggregating 76,599,000 koku, (a koku is roughly 5 bushels) plus the average annual production of over 3,000,000 koku of beans, corns, etc., will be enough to go round to the 80,000,000 people at the rate of one koku person per year. The main difficulty at present lies in inadequate transportation facilities. This is preventing the transportation of the military stocks of rice to large cities.

READERS IN COUNCIL

Not Surprised

To the Editor:

"At last": this was the feeling uppermost within me, on the announcement of the SCAP directive, ordering the apprehension and surrender of Prince Fumimaro Konoye as a war suspect. It had puzzled me to an extreme extent that he had not appeared on the SCAP lists already; I have often wondered if it were possible that the Prince could be excluded, for although all my logical conclusions discounted it, facts seemed to point in that direction; I did no like it. But now, all doubts have been cleared. That which should naturally happen has happened.

Since the war with America and England did not begin spontaneously, but was only the natural outcome of the fighting in China, and Japan's continuous disregard of international laws and customs, it should be absolutely clear that the man who, though it may be only superficial, caused all the troubles in China, must stand before the tribunal as a suspect. Prince Konoye was the Prime Minister in 1937, when the North China Affair, later to become the Chinese Affair, occurred.

While at first advocating a short time settling of the trouble, it was Konoye who made that historical speech, saying, "although we make sacrifices now, that which is sacrificed will be lost in a form many times larger, in the times of our descendants if we do not do it now,"; and it was again Konoye who made that preposterous declaration, "we will no longer deal with Chiang Kai Shek." I do not disclaim the Prince's sincerity in wishing to negotiate with the United States for stabilization of the peace of the Pacific, nor deny the truth of the oft reported fact that he was utterdly against the war, and strived his atmost to bring about peace. But this will in no way exempt him from the blame of bringing Japan's relations with China into complete entaglement. It is morally and logically just, that Prince Konoye should be tried for his misdeeds, or, to relent a little, his mistakes.

However, in spite of all, there still remains a large portion of the Japanese, who believe Prince Konoye to be a character, in some way, aloof from the people in general; so that notwithstanding the facts and logic pointing toward the Prince's war crime, and at least necessitating his appearance before the tribunal, they would have it that Konoye is different and should be treated differently. But to ask these people to define their thoughts and feelings, to give their reasons for such a decision, is absolutely useless; and yet, if I were to explain clearly and thoroughly, my reasons and reasoning for determining that Prince Konoye is a war suspect, even if not a criminal, they would nod, while giving the negative answer, "well yes; but even so, the Prince is different."

The above tendency of thinking is not a monopoly of the privelege classes, or the upper classes, who have a feeling of sympathy toward the Prince, as one of their own class For I have met with numerous instances in which people of middle and lower classes have expressed the same sentiments. I should not be wrong in stating that the way of thought which exempts Konoye from ordinary standards of right and wrong, is a national characteristic of the Japanese, while the object also, is not necessarily restricted to Prince Konoye, but includes all members of the royal family, culminating in the Emperor. This trait must be remembered when setting about in the re-education of the Japanese.

Tsunaaki Otsukasa

Karuizawa

'Aimless Flight'

Christian Science Monitor

This newspaper does not feel that the Army's case for universal military training is yet proved. Put the case for reversing the aimless flight from all that savors of war and for charting a positive military program has already been made. It should be a program fitting to the needs and responsibilities of today and adaptable to those of tomorrow. But, whatever its nature, its details will be of less importance than America's willingness to halt the retreat toward yesterday and to stand up to its place in the world.

UPHEAVAL ROCKS TENNO'S THRONE

Japanese People, Of Their Own Choice, Will Evolve A New Pattern of Government

By IPPEI FUKUDA

People on the wrong side of their fifties can hardly believe their ears when they listen to widespread discussion engendered by the question whether Japan should retain the Throne or not. Intellectuals in their forties' are split between the pull of history and the fascination of the rapidly unravelling scene of the present and of the future. To yet younger men and women the issue comes as something which cannot be left to the vagaries of the academic platitude of their elders and which they claim they alone, because of their freedom from the fetters of tradition, are capable of solving. The strata of of divergent approaches should seem to offer a clear indication that time will, sooner or later, determine the problem of premier importance to the nation.

In his interpellation on November 29 which was more of a pre-election preparation than a challenge, Mr. Ichiro Hatoyama clarified the stand on the question of the Liberals (Jiyuto) which he heads as president. The Tenno's reign, he asserted, is so alive in the flesh and blood of the whole people of the Empire that it is nothing short of sacrilege to bring it into question. Under no circumstance, he went on to state, will the Japanese sacrifice the pivot of their corporate solidarity. Besides, the Liberal leader contended, the Sovereignty, such as it is in Japan, has served for centuries as an effective remedy for our racial weaknesses in politics, namely lust for power and the people's readiness to be led by the nose by men in power.

The Progressives (Shimpoto) who hold a comfortable majority in the present lineup of the House of Representatives with 275 seats out of the quorum of 466 favors a constitutional monarchy for Japan with the Diet invigorated through enjoyment of wider powers while the Socialists (Shakaito) demur on the controversial point presumably with an eye on the weathercock atop the varied leftist wings ranging from pale pink through popular front orange to bright red.

Stand of the Communists

As can be expected, uniquivocating and irrevocable is the thumbsdown of the Communists on continuation of what they regard as a form of theocracy born of the misleading mist of fairy tales. They hold that Imperial Rule is as dissimilar to democracy as the origins of the two patterns of government are. It is their professed conviction that when the history of Japan is revamped in the light of scientific truth, the crust of mythological attributes which fasten on the system are bound to go to pieces. As it stands today, the red-colored crusade against the Tenno clashes with the views of other political groups and whether it has the support of the general public or not is yet to be seen as the Communists have no representation in the Diet and as response to their onslaughts from the rostra and over radio remains inarticulate so far.

Replying to the contention brought up in the House of Peers by Mr. G. Matsumura that the Communist advocacy for the overthrow of the Tenno constitutes lese majeste and that some drastic steps be taken by the Government to deal with such heresy, Justice Minister Iwata disavowed any intention on the part of the Government to frame a new law to regulate Communist advocacies. Prime Minister Shidehara gave the same guarantee for freedom of thought and expression. And all these unhampered streams of views running up and down and from right to left augur well for the people on probation.

Progressives Lead

The distribution of seats among the political parties in the House of Representatives is as follows:

Progressives	275
Liberals	45
Socialists	15
Independents	131

There can be little doubt that this parliamentary map of the present will bear little resemblance to what is to be redrawn by the coming general election. It should be also obvious that the question of Imperial Rule will be one of the hottest issues the campaign will be fought over. And, as has been observed, the Communists have got to test out their rightness or wrongness about the burning issue on the anvil of public opinion. It is generally felt in government circles and among leaders of more or less conservative camps that should the radicals insist on entering the election race with their "Down with the Emperor" slogan they would meet certain defeat. Most probably, their soothing prediction will come true.

Few men with courage to see things as they really are will deny that the Throne as a font of inspiration for the people and also as a stabilizing force, as Representative Hatoyama pointed out in his speech in the Diet, is decidedly on the wane. Causes of the unmistakable decline in the prestige of the Mikado are many. Among them the most apparent and potent is the recent war and its pathetic anti-climax. And yet beyond the wigwam of the Communists there are few men who can recall any instance of tyranny under any Tenno in history. Nor do the people think that the war, disastrous as it was, was brought on them by the Sovereign. Their memory harks back to the glories of the Meiji era when things went well with people's rights respected and the nation's prestige at its height. Wasn't Japan under the same regime? What's wrong with the Emperor, they would retort, neither he or any of his forebears has ever made an attempt to assert himself as a dictator. In short, the Japanese have been trained, generation after generation, to look up to the Sovereignty more as a spiritual leadership than as a hub of government. History records no ambitious Tenno who yielded to the arrogance of "I am the State." On the contrary, they were, in most cases, too self-effacing to give virile, firm guidance to their Empire. The point was brought in bold relief on the eve of Japan's surrender to the United Nations when Emperor Hirohito made a moving appeal to his people over a nation-wide radio network. He said what might happen to him and his Household as the result of defeat was no concern of his: the wellbeing of the people was uppermost in his mind. It is true that such selfless devotion to his subjects has fired the blood of the race and went far more than anything else toward forging the bond of popular reverence for the Sovereignty. The bond, considerably weaker as it is today, still holds true and will continue to govern the thought of the Japanese for a number of years.

Fissures Already Visible

All the same, however, the ground of tradition is showing signs of change: fissures are already visible, growing and ever widening. What will come next is hard to tell. In one of his recent address, Mr. Joseph Grew, U.S. Ambassador to Tokyo until Pearl Harbor, sought to establish an analogy between the Pope and the Tenno, holding that the former is as indispensable to Europe as the latter is to Japan. There is something in his observation and one may wonder if the two moral forces with all their attributes of permanence might not join the march to oblivion of so many deep-rooted creations of God and man.

Before he left Washington for Tokyo, Mr. Joseph Keenan, Chief United States War Crimes Prosecutor for Japan, told the press that the decision whether the Tenno will join General Tojo in the prisoners' dock as a war criminal will be made when he reaches Tokyo. Spurred by the impending arrest of H.I.H. Prince Nashimoto on a charge of war guilt, speculation is said to be rife in America as to the eventual status of the Tenno, the question being asked as to "what classification the Japanese Emperor was going to be.' To Senator Edwin C. Johnson, Democrat of Colorado, it seems that any such decision on the matter should have been made when Japan surrendered and that it is unfair to clinch the issue at this time. The brewing storm was foreseen by Premier K. Suzuki and his successor, Prince Higashikuni who successively did their utmost to stave off the calamity. The threat to Japan is far more portentous than that of the "Hang the Kaiser" fever that followed the Armistice of the last World War: it will most certainly throw the whole nation into irretrievable chaos. A sigh of relief arose not only in political circles in Tokyo but from the mass of people here when they were told by the press that General Chiang Kai-shek submitted China's list of Japanese war criminals minus the Tenno. They were further heartened by the reported concensus of public opinion in America favoring a slow-but-steady recipe for Japan. Time, as I intimated earlier in the article, will prove a consummate, unfailing arbiter over this issue of stupendous import. Time, again, will see to it that the people of their own choice consolidate a new pattern of government as their schooling in democracy progresses.

Jerome Kern

Cleveland Plain Dealer

During the week in which Jerome Kern hovered between life and death, millions of Americans prayed quietly but fervently for his recovery. We wanted him to get well again, not only because we hated to lose one of our most beloved Americans, but also because we knew that within that heart of his there must be many more beautiful songs which we would never sing if Jerome Kern should die.

Now they are lost to us and America will never be quite as rich musically as it would have been if Kern had lived a few years longer. But it probably was asking too much of Providence to give us more Kern music. Since he wrote "They Didn't Believe Me" back in 1914, songs that America will always love to play and sing have flowed steadily from his pen, until the library of Kern tunes became one of America's largest and most prized possessions.